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Veterans Employment Situation in Maine, 2011

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Center for Workforce Research and Information

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Veterans Employment Situation in Maine

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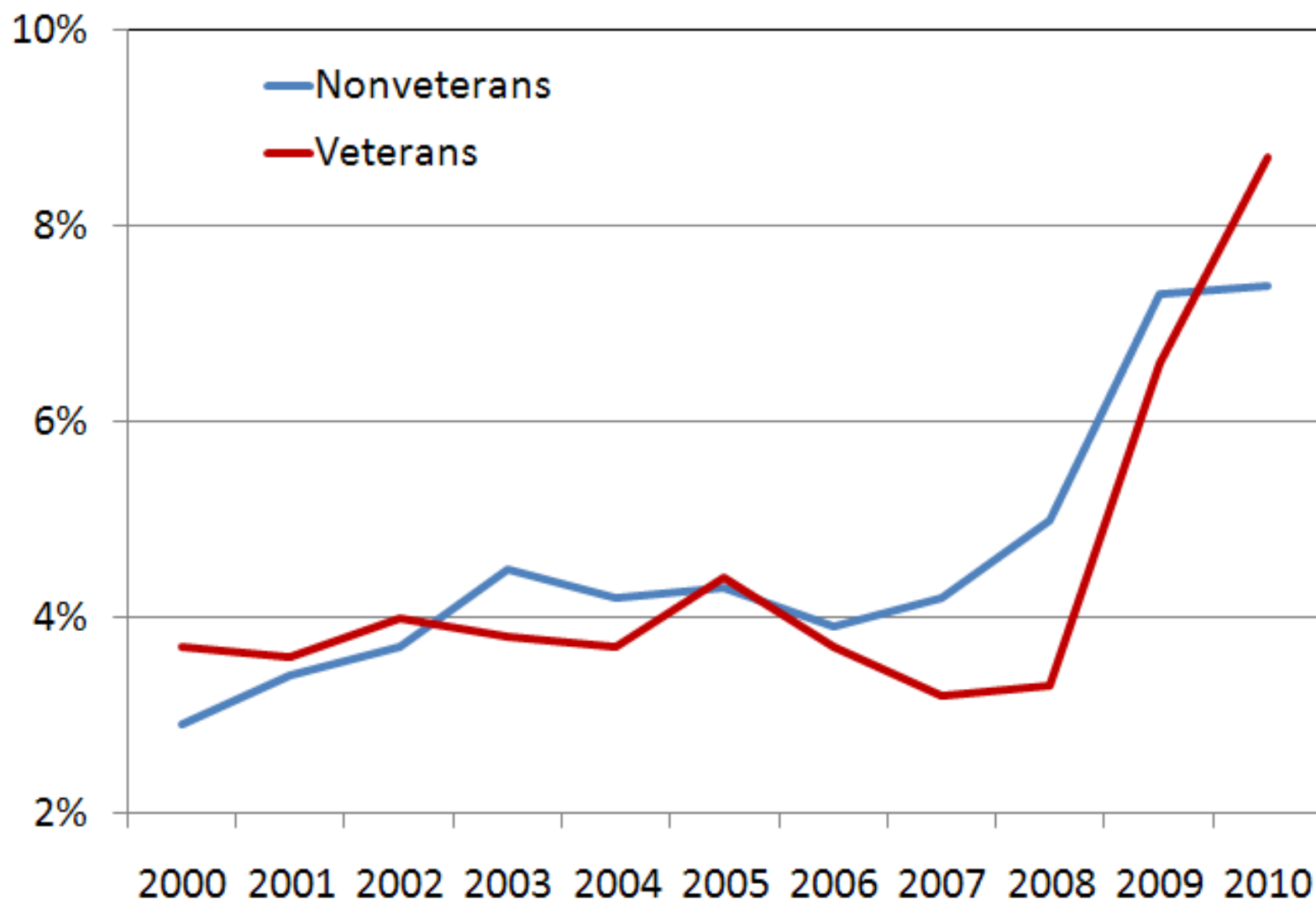
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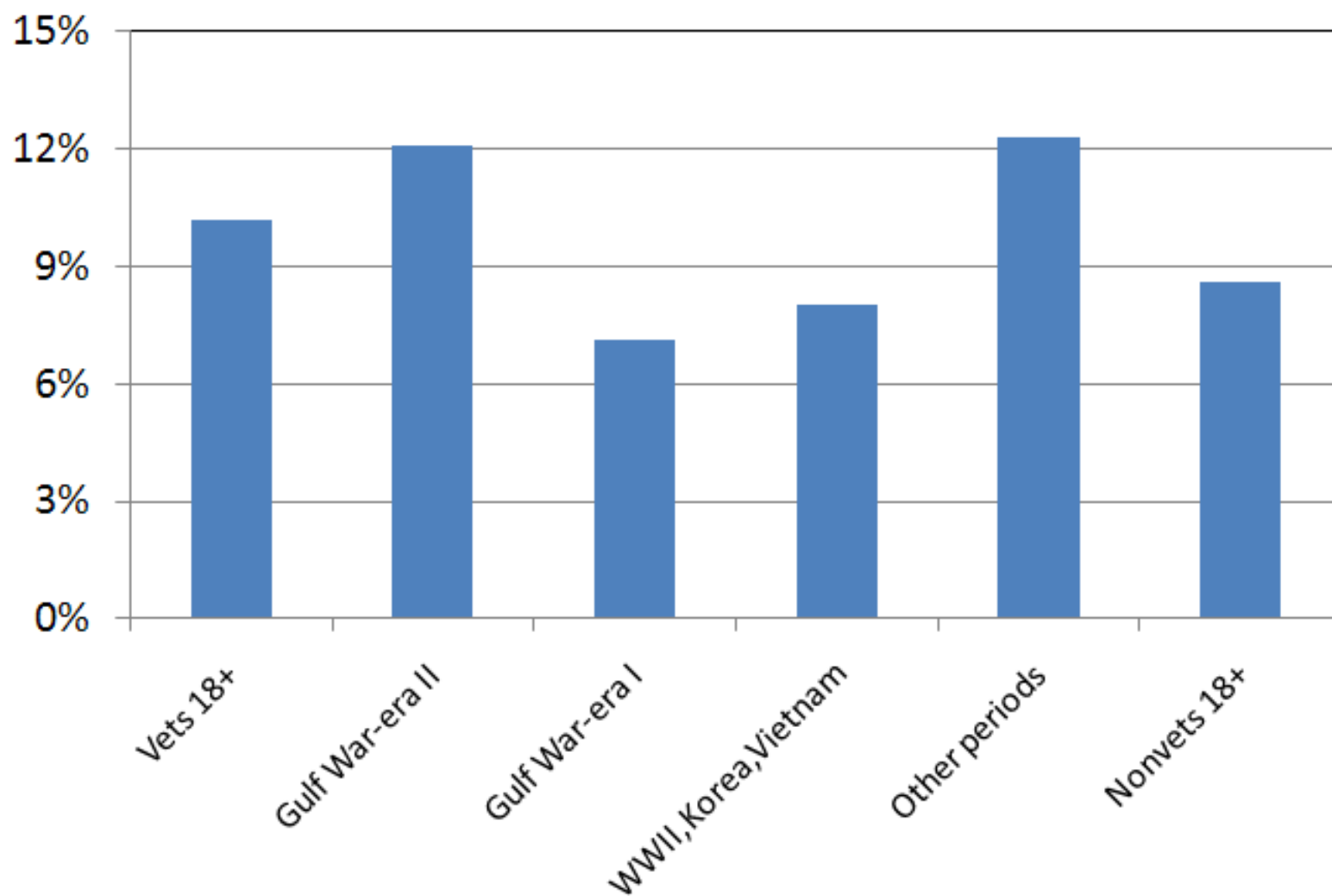
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July 19, 2011

The unemployment rate for veterans was below the nonveteran rate until 2010 in Maine



The U.S. unemployment rate for Gulf II era veterans is higher than average *(June 2011)*



Which statement is most correct about veterans unemployment rates?

Good indicator of workforce conditions for most veterans.

Poor indicator of workforce conditions for most veterans.

Averages sometimes lump unlike groups together. Some groups of veterans face very different circumstances than others.

Several factors to consider when comparing unemployment rates of veterans and nonveterans. Veterans are:

Mostly male (94%)

Older than the general adult population

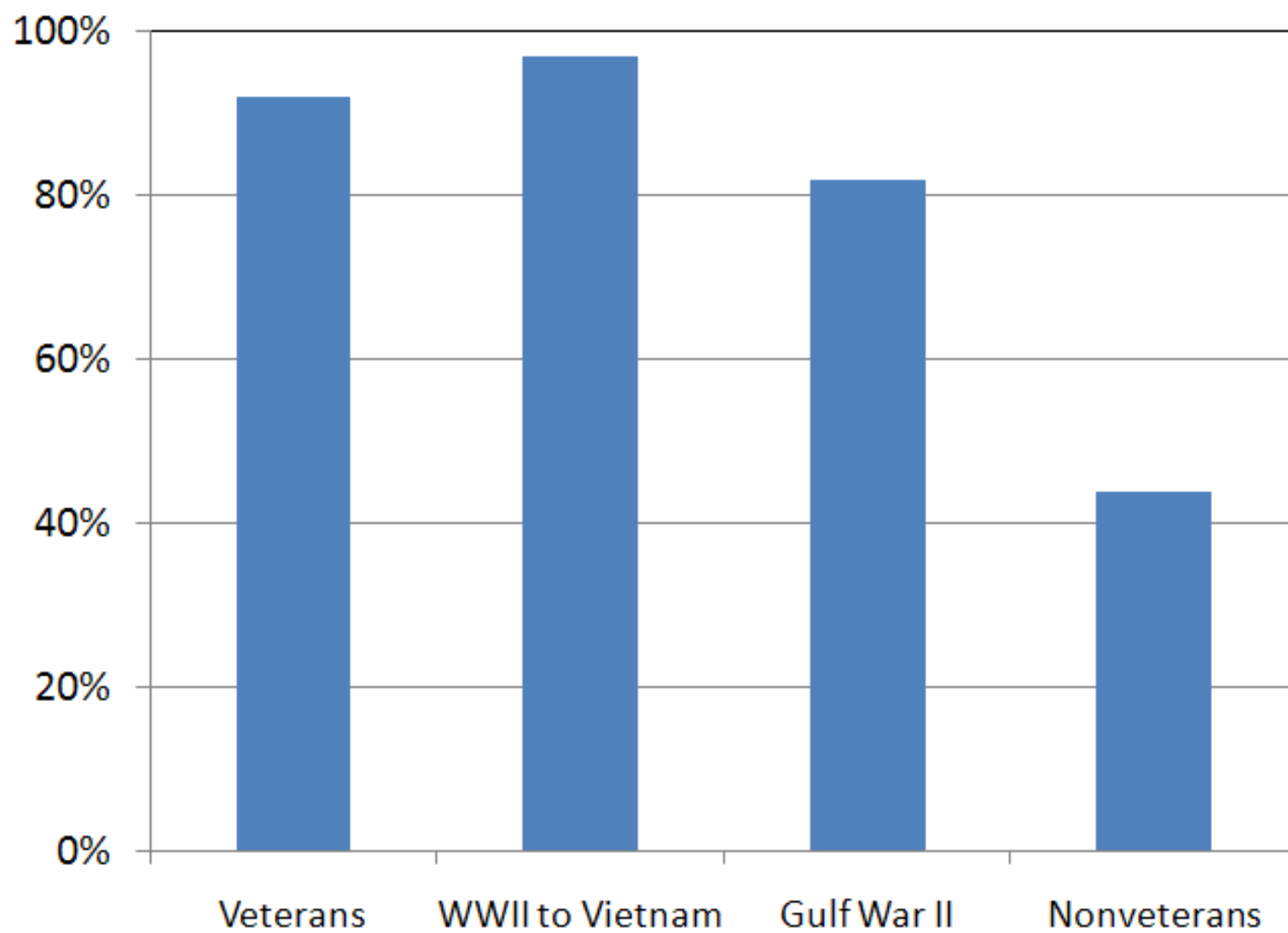
- Vets: 40% age 65+; 66% age 55+

- Nonvets: 17% age 65+; 33% age 55+

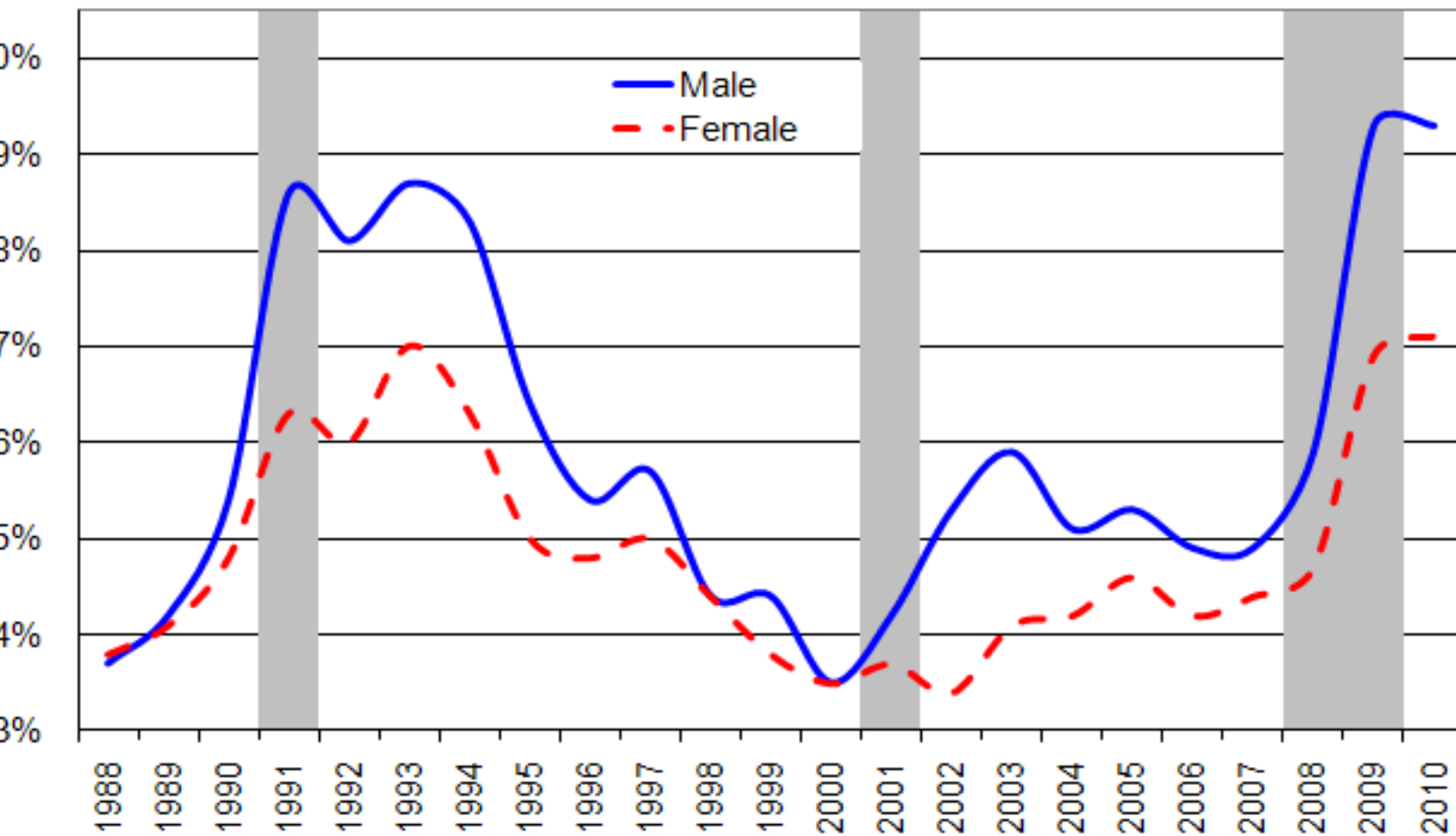
More likely to have a disability that prevents them from working.

- Those not looking for work are not unemployed

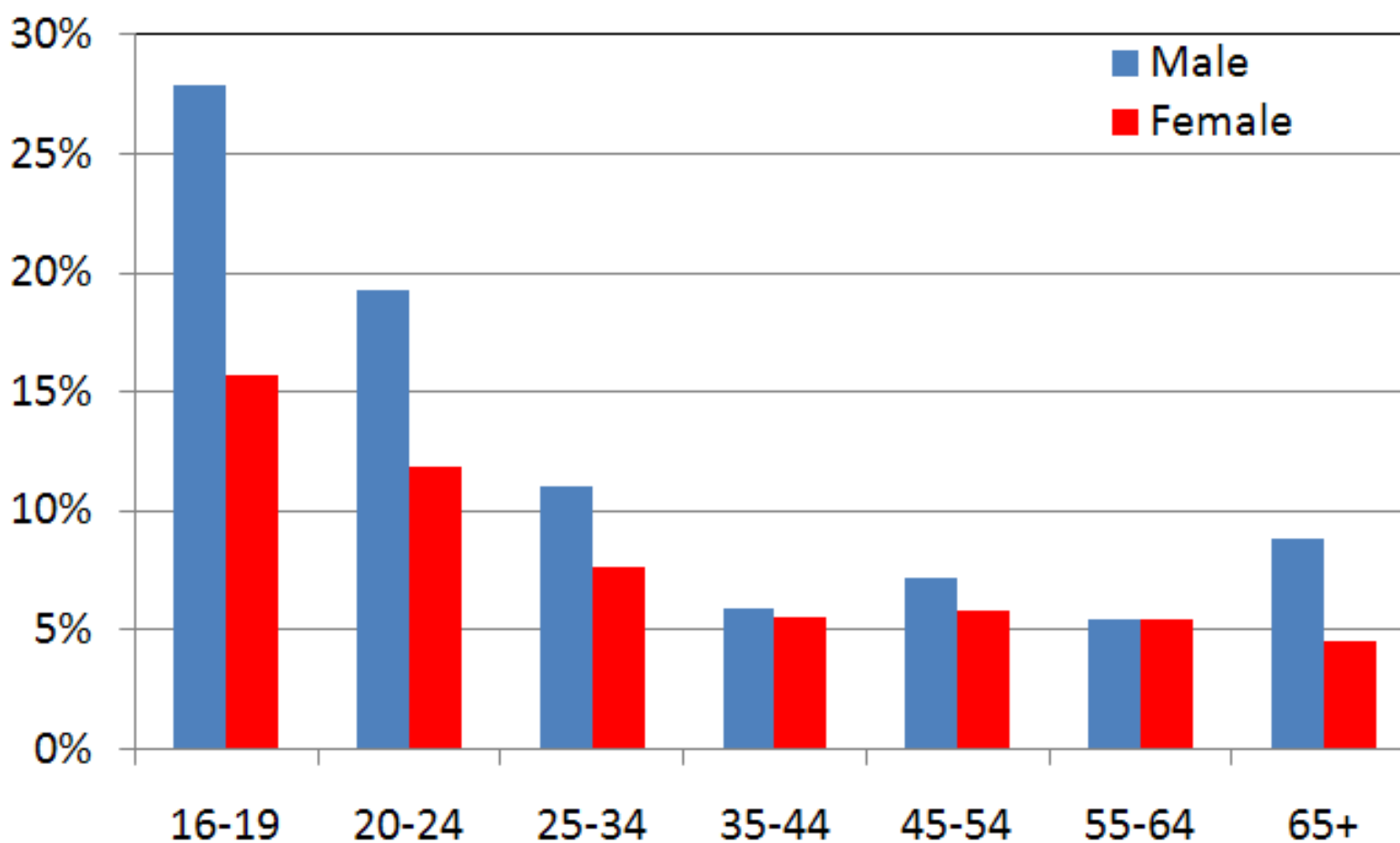
Most veterans are male



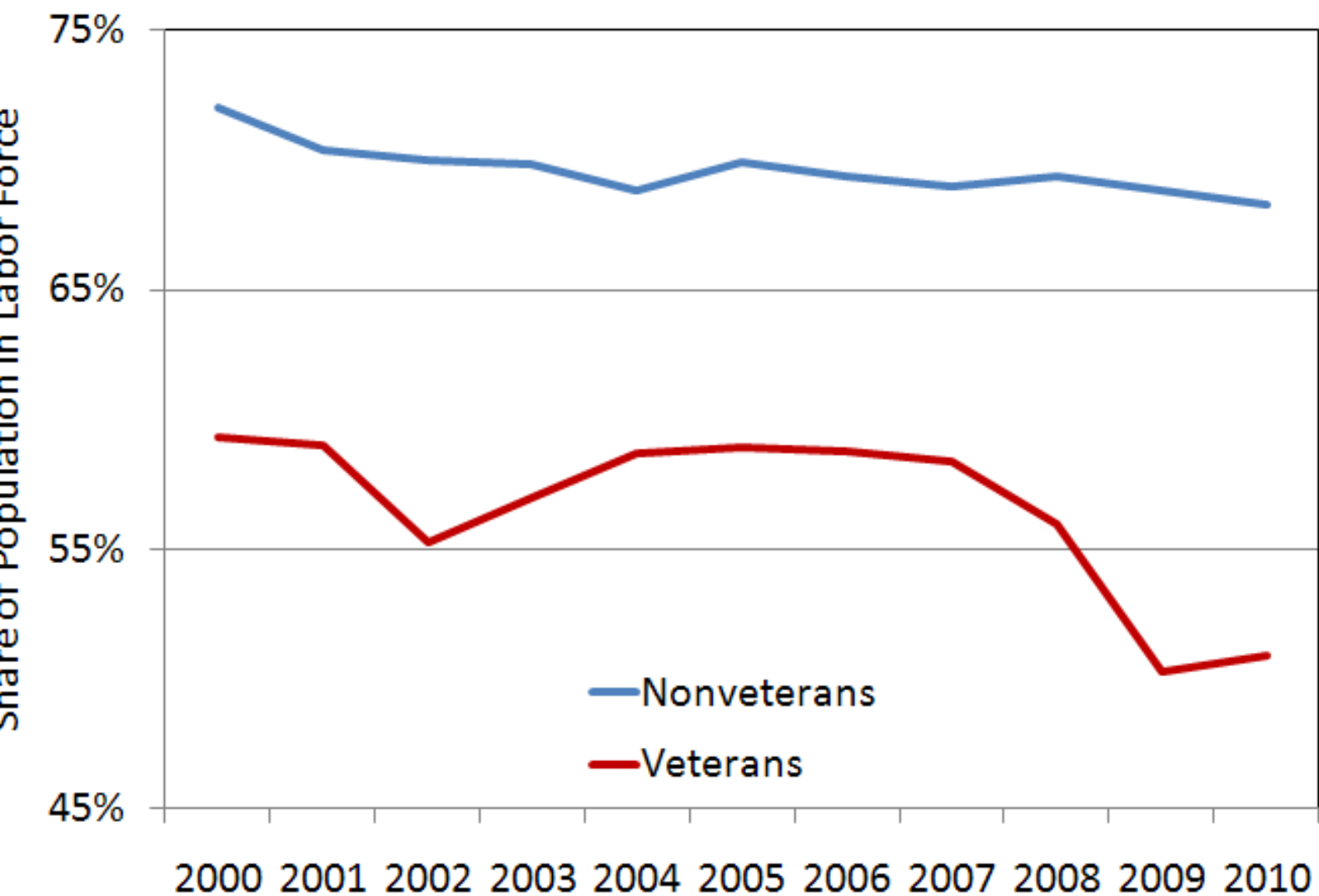
Unemployment rates are not only higher among men than women, but they increase much more during and shortly after recessions *(Maine annual averages)*



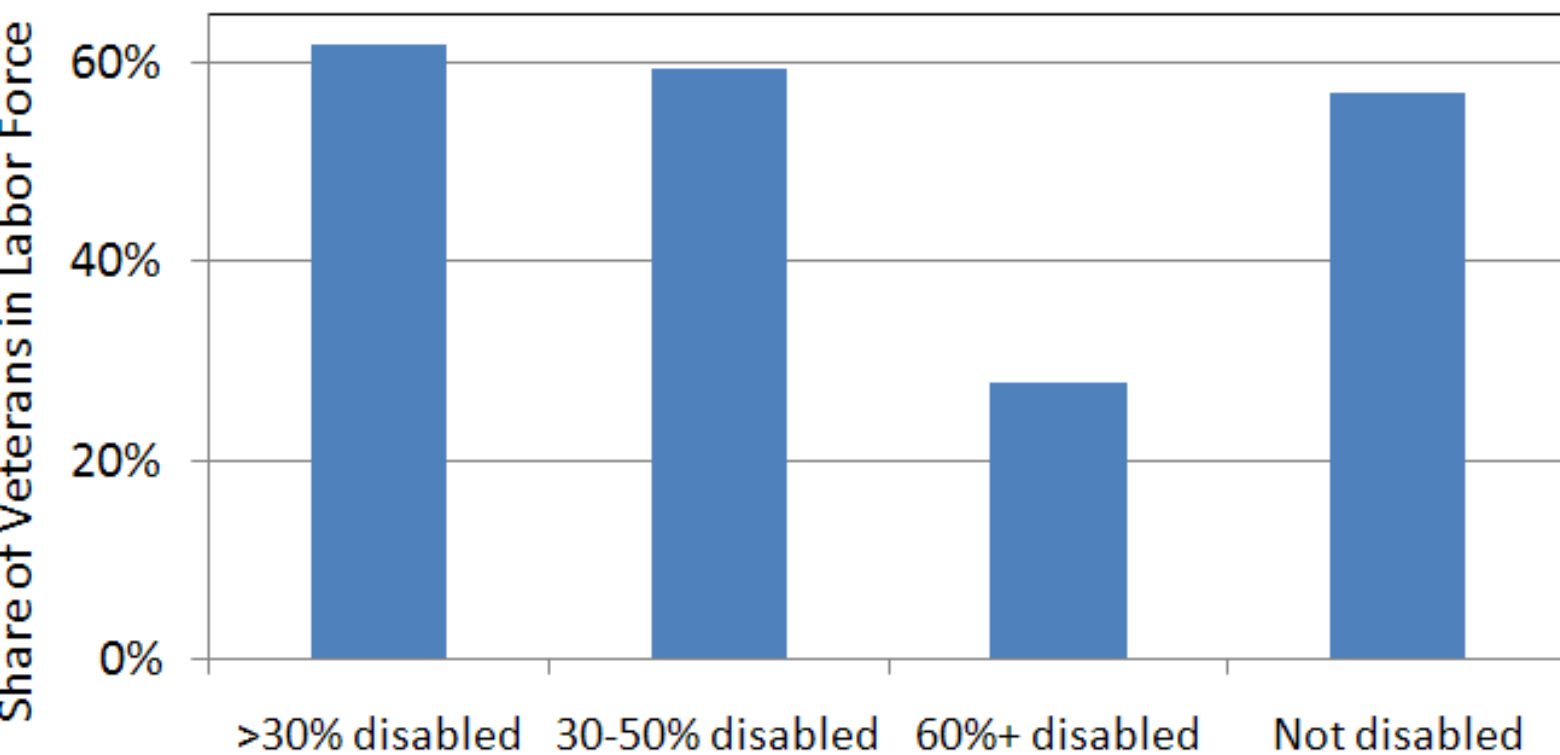
Unemployment rates are lowest among middle-age and seniors and highest among young males *(2010 annual average for Maine)*



The labor force participation rate is lower and declining faster among veterans *(Maine averages)*

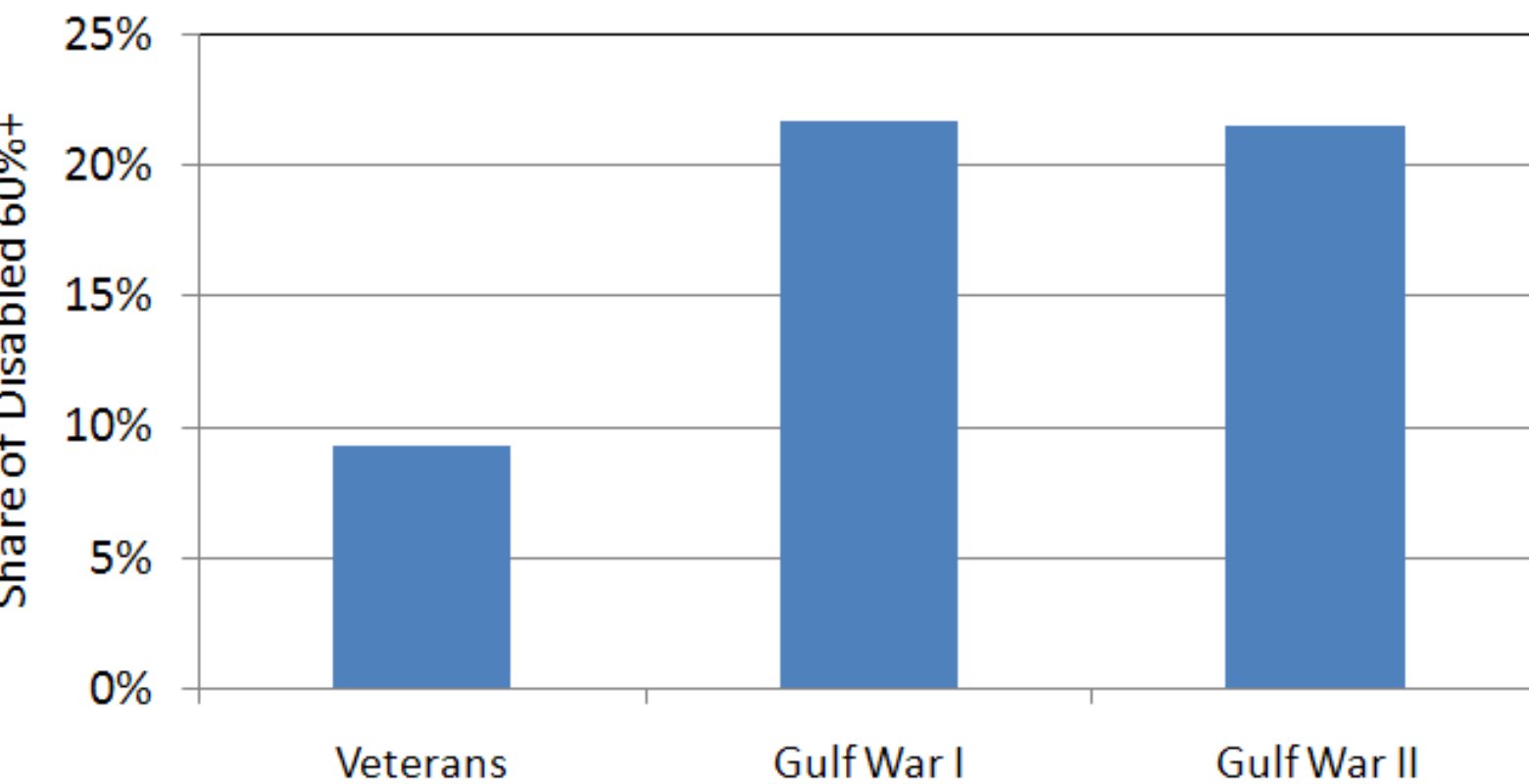


Veterans with the most substantial levels of service-connected disability are less likely to be in the labor force, while those less than 50% disabled are more likely to be in the labor force *(U.S. average, July 2010)*



Among veterans with a service-connected disability, Gulf era veterans are more likely to be 60% or more disabled than previous groups, which limits their ability to work

(U.S. average, July 2010)



Based on demographic trends, it is likely veterans labor force participation rates will continue to decline as older veterans retire. Unemployment rates for veterans are likely to remain higher than for nonveterans for several years because young men will comprise a rising share of the veterans labor force.

Many disabled veterans are not in the labor force. Official unemployment rates only include those actively engaged in work search.